Anti-Obama Voices Fail to Undermine Inspirational Speech to Nation's School Children

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) today applauded President Obama's back to school speech in Arlington, Virginia.

"The fact that the most powerful officeholder in the world took time to speak to America's school children speaks far louder than any of the shrill anti-Obama voices. President Obama's speech echoed the message that teachers and parents communicate regularly to their children – take responsibility for your education and set goals. His speech struck the right tone for Minnesota students and students across America," Congresswoman McCollum said.

President Obama said, "we can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents, and the best schools in the world – and none of it will matter unless all of you fulfill your responsibilities. Unless you show up to those schools; pay attention to those teachers; listen to your parents, grandparents and other adults; and put in the hard work it takes to succeed.

Congresswoman McCollum also expressed disappointment that Governor Tim Pawlenty (MN-R) failed to add his voice to promote the importance of education, but instead opted to play politics with this important issue, urging schools to censor President Obama's back to school address.

"While President Obama offered America's school children inspiration and hope, Minnesota's governor provided another unseemly example of the harsh, anti-Obama script peddled by Republicans in Washington. Governor Pawlenty needs to spend more time in Minnesota classrooms talking about the importance of education to our state's students," Congresswoman McCollum added.

During the speech President Obama said, "I'm calling on each of you to set your own goals for your education – and to do everything you can to meet them. Your goal can be something as simple as doing all your homework, paying attention in class, or spending time each day reading a book."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the House Appropriations & Budget Committees.

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